



AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete, marked up listing of revised claims with a status identifier in parentheses, underlined text indicating insertions, and strikethrough and/or double-bracketed text indicating deletions.

**LISTING OF CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for processing medically relevant data objects including at least one of image data and metadata, comprising:

a first electronic data processing device for viewing and editing the data objects, the first electronic data processing device including,

a data store for storing the data objects, and

a first interface for outputting data objects, and

a second electronic data processing device for presenting and altering data from data objects in medically relevant reports using report masks, the second electronic data processing device including,

a mask memory for storing the report masks, and

a second interface for receiving the data objects,

~~a data switching device for checking the data objects for consistency with the medically relevant reports prior to storing the data objects, wherein~~

the first data processing device uses firmly prescribed data formats, unalterable by a user, to store, view and edit the data objects,

~~wherein~~ the second data processing device uses report masks, generateable and alterable by the user to present and alter data from data objects, even without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, and

~~wherein~~ the interfaces of the first and second data processing devices are connectable to one another for transfer of data objects from the first data processing device to the second data processing device.

2. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second data processing device stores report masks at least one of generated and altered by the user, in the mask memory.

3. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the second data processing device uses report masks, generateable and alterable by the user without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order for a user to edit data from data objects.

4. (Currently Amended) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the interfaces includes ~~[[the]]~~ a data switching device, the data switching device having access to an association memory containing information about an association between data object types and report masks, and wherein the data switching device is adapted to ascertain the type of a data object transferred via the interface, compare the ascertained type with the content of the association memory and associate a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of the comparison.

5. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the interfaces on the first and second data processing devices, when interconnected, are useable to transfer data belonging to data objects from the second data processing device to the first data processing device, and wherein data objects with user-edited data, transferred to the first data

processing device via the interconnected interfaces, are stored in the data store.

6. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 5, wherein content of user-edited data is checked by the data switching device, and the checked data are stored by the first data processing device only on the basis of the result of the check.

7. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first data processing device is for authenticating all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents them for later reconstruction.

8. (Currently Amended) A distributed method for processing medically relevant data objects, including at least one of image data and metadata, with a first component for at least one of viewing, editing and storing the data objects and with a second component for presenting data from the data objects, comprising:

using prescribed data formats in the first component, which are unalterable by a user, to at least one of store, view and edit the data objects;

using report masks in the second component, which are at least one of generateable and alterable by the user without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, to present and alter data from the data objects, wherein data objects are transferable from the first to the second component; and

~~checking data objects for consistency with a patient record prior to storing the data objects.~~

9. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second component stores report masks, at least one of generated and altered by the user, in a mask memory.

10. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the second method component uses report masks for a user to edit data from the data objects.

11. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein a data switching component is provided for ascertaining the type of a data object transferred from the first to the second component, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of an association memory containing information about the association between data object types and report masks, and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of this comparison.

12. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein data belonging to data objects is transferable from the second to the first component, and wherein the first component stores data objects with user-edited data, transferred to the first component, in a data store.

13. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the content of user-edited data belonging to data objects is checked, and the user-edited data are stored by the first component only on the basis of the result of this check.

14. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first component authenticates all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents them so that they can be subsequently reconstructed.

15. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 2, wherein the second data processing device uses report masks, generateable and alterable by the user without

knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order for a user to edit data from data objects.

16. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the interfaces includes data switching means, having access to an association memory containing information about an association between data object types and report masks, for ascertaining the type of a data object transferred via the interface, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of the association memory and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of the comparison.

17. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 4, wherein the interfaces on the first and second data processing devices, when interconnected, are useable to transfer data belonging to data objects from the second data processing device to the first data processing device, and wherein data objects with user-edited data, transferred to the first data processing device via the interconnected interfaces, are stored in the data store.

18. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 17, wherein content of user-edited data is checked, and the checked data are stored by the first data processing device only on the basis of the result of the check.

19. (Original) The distributed method of claim 8, wherein the second component is used to present data from the data objects in medically relevant reports using the report masks.

20. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the second method component uses report masks for a user to edit data from the data objects.

21. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a data switching component is provided for ascertaining the type of a data object transferred from the first to the second component, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of an association memory containing information about the association between data object types and report masks, and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of this comparison.

22. (Original) The distributed method as claimed in claim 10, wherein a data switching component is provided for ascertaining the type of a data object transferred from the first to the second component, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of an association memory containing information about the association between data object types and report masks, and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of this comparison.

23. (Currently Amended) A data processing system for processing medically relevant data objects including at least one of image data and metadata, comprising:

first electronic data processing means for viewing and editing the data objects, the first electronic data processing means including,

storage means for storing the data objects, and

first interfacing means for outputting data objects;

a second electronic data processing means for presenting and altering data from data objects in medically relevant reports using report masks, the second electronic data processing means including,

memory means for storing the report masks, and

second interfacing means for receiving the data objects,

~~a data switching means for checking the data objects for consistency with the medically relevant reports prior to storing the data objects wherein~~

the first data processing means uses firmly prescribed data formats, unalterable by a user, to store, view and edit the data objects,

~~wherein~~ the second data processing means uses report masks, generateable and alterable by the user to present and alter data from data objects, even without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, and

~~wherein~~ the interfacing means of the first and second data processing means are connectable to one another for transfer of data objects from the first data processing means to the second data processing means.

24. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the second data processing means stores report masks at least one of generated and altered by the user, in the memory means.

25. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the second data processing means uses report masks, generateable and alterable by the user without knowledge of the syntax of the data objects, in order for a user to edit data from data objects.

26. (Currently Amended) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein at least one of the interfacing means includes ~~[[the]]~~ data switching means, the data switching means having access to an association memory containing information about an association between data object types and report masks, for ascertaining the type of a data object transferred via the interface means, for comparing the ascertained type with the content of the association memory

and for associating a report mask with the data object on the basis of the result of the comparison.

27. (Previously Presented) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the interfacing means on the first and second data processing means, when interconnected, are useable to transfer data belonging to data objects from the second data processing means to the first data processing means, and wherein data objects with user-edited data, transferred to the first data processing means via the interconnected interfaces, are stored in the storage means.

28. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 27 wherein content of user-edited data is checked, and the checked data are stored by the first data processing means only on the basis of the result of the check.

29. (Original) The data processing system as claimed in claim 23, wherein the first data processing means is for authenticating all access operations to data objects by users in a manner which the user cannot alter and documents them for later reconstruction.